

Ling 795 Seminar: Sociolinguistic Typology

Fall 2018

Thu 4:00–6:40

Room HH-128

Schedule # 22134

In this course, we will review the literature on the ways that social factors influence grammar. Topics to be covered may include:

- Pidgins and creoles
- Complexity invariance, linguistic universals, and syntactically simple languages
- Language in exoteric and esoteric contexts
- Nomothetic (vs. idiographic) approaches
- Linguistic Niche Hypothesis

Specific topics and readings will depend on the interests of participants.

Instructor:

Rob Malouf

Office: SHW-244

Office hours: Tue and Thu 1:00–2:00, or by appointment

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Requirements:

The goals of this course are for participants to gain experience in:

- understanding sociolinguistic typology and its applications in theoretical and descriptive linguistics,
- reading and evaluating the primary literature,
- presenting and discussing research material with peers,
- identifying open research questions,
- applying descriptive and theoretical concepts to novel linguistic data.

Through the term, participants (including auditors!) will present and discuss articles from the reading list, which cover a number of aspects of morphological theory.

In addition to leading and participating in discussions, students taking the class for a grade will also prepare a final research project. The final grade will be based on class participation and on the final project:

Project outline	Nov 15	10%
Final presentations	Dec 6	10%
Final project	Dec 19	60%
Class participation	—	20%